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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3612

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 6023

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 2522

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 4323

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SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
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PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - SITUATION IN BURMA

LEAD STORIES: Front-page items in six major dailies on Tuesday morning include the alleged remarks by Kim Jong Il to South Korean President Roh during their recent summit in Pyongyang that there are no more Japanese abductees in the DPRK.

"Determination of Fallen Photojournalist Must Be Carried On" The liberal Asahi editorialized (10/9): "A funeral was held in Tokyo yesterday for the photojournalist recently killed by the Burmese military.... The Burmese junta has claimed that the killing was an 'accident.' However, judging from video footage taken at the scene, as well as the autopsy results showing how the bullet passed through his body, it is clear that he was targeted. The GOJ should press the junta for information, including who shot him and why, as well as who ordered the shooting. The GOJ also must demand the return of his video camera. The issue of Burmese victims must not be overlooked, either. While Burmese authorities have claimed that only 10 people were killed in the violence, other information points to the death of over 100 people. Thousands more have been arrested, with some injured persons being forcibly taken from hospitals.... While Japan is currently not on the UN Security Council, it is qualified to make a statement in the body, as a Japanese citizen was killed. When the council adopts a chairman's statement, Japan should take part in the session and clearly express its anger. At the same time, the GOJ needs to review its aid to Burma. While it is considering suspending some of its assistance programs, the GOJ must first admit that its approach of

promoting democratization through dialogue has failed."

DONOVAN